modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. A short-term Action Plan for ensuring the revival of the export momentum has been formulated. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as 'extreme focus' sectors aimed at value or volume increase of 30% every year, in exports.

Commodities Identified for Export

740. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain commodities as "Thrust' commodities for export;

(b) if so, what are the details of these commodities; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to increase export of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government have identified 34 commodities/commodity groups called 'Extreme Focus Products' for a special export thrust, based on their potential to achieve a 30% growth per annum over the medium term.

(b) These commodities/commodity Groups are aquaculture, agrochemicals, auto components, bicycles and parts, cement, complete vehicles, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and intermediates, electric power generation and distribution equipment, floriculture, footwear, fresh fruits, gold jewellery, granite, handtools internal combustion engines and parts, industrial castings and forginings, tomato paste products, tropical fruit juices, pulp & concentrates, preserved mushrooms, readymade garments, rice, software, packages, system software, network computer aided design/computer aided manufacture, spices, sugar, molasses, alcohol including ethyl, alcohol, sugar machinery, synthetic and man-made textiles, and tyres.

(c) To increase exports of these commodities, the Government have examined the recommendations made by trade groups in respect of these commodities and several decisions have already been taken which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening up Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations to the private sector, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country, simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations, etc.

741. [*Transferred to 4th March*, 1993.]

Indo-European Communities Trade Relations

742. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the establishment of Indo-European communities economic and trade relations;

(b) if so, the possibility explored in that direction so far; and

(c) what steps are contemplated in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has well established economic and trade relations with the European Economic Community and the countries comprised therein. These are periodically reviewed in Joint Commission meetings, regular bilateral discussions at official and Ministerial level, exchange of trade and industry delegations, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars, training programmes and buyer-seller meets.

STRATEGY FOR FASTER GROWTH OF TEA INDUSTRY

743. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a strategy for the faster growth of tea industry and a higher exportable surplus of tea; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?